

Amendment to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 6, 13, 24 and 26-29, add new claims 33 and 34 and amend claims 1, 7, 11, 12, 30 and 32 wherein strikethrough and double brackets indicate a deletion and underline indicates an addition, as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A panel for a fence comprising:

at least one hollow rail having pairs of first and second apertures extending through a wall; and

a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, each picket passing through a first ~~aperture~~ and ~~[[a]]~~ second aperture pair, thereby passing through the rail and ending outside of [[in]] the rail ~~and having a longitudinal axis~~, the first aperture being spaced from the second aperture ~~along the longitudinal axis~~, a portion of each picket located inside of the rail between the first and second apertures being compressed partially radially inwardly within the rail in first and second converging directions ~~generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis~~ thereby expanding the portion of each picket located inside of the rail partially radially outwardly within the rail in ~~first and second~~ third and fourth diverging directions, ~~the first and second diverging directions being generally perpendicular to the first and second converging directions~~ to thereby prevent further passage of each picket through the first and second apertures.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) The panel for a fence according to claim 1, wherein the portion of each picket that has been deformed within the rail has a partly flattened shape that no longer fits through the first and second apertures in the rail.

- 4-6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A panel for a fence comprising:

at least one hollow rail;

a plurality of pickets supported by the rail, the rail having an external wall with entry apertures extending through the external wall for receiving the pickets; and

an internal wall, spaced internally from the external wall and the entry apertures and having a plurality of holding apertures ~~having holding apertures for holding end portions of the~~ pickets,

wherein each picket enters the rail through a respective entry aperture and [[the]] an end portion of each picket passes through and is received by a corresponding holding aperture in the internal wall, a portion of each picket located inside of the rail between the entry and holding apertures being compressed partially radially inwardly within the rail in first and second converging directions thereby expanding the portion of each picket located inside of the rail partially radially outwardly within the rail in third and fourth diverging directions such that a portion of the picket is held between the respective entry aperture and the corresponding holding aperture.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are aligned with the entry apertures so that the pickets are perpendicular to the rail.

10. (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are offset from the entry apertures so that the pickets are not perpendicular to the rail.

11. (Currently Amended) The panel according to claim 7, wherein the internal wall is moveable within the rail to vary the alignment of the holding apertures and the entry apertures, prior to insertion of the pickets through the entry and exit apertures and the apertures in the

internal wall.

12. (Currently Amended) The panel according to claim 7, wherein the holding apertures are formed by a plurality of flanges which receive ~~[[end]]~~ and hold portions of respective pickets.

13-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 1, further comprising a pair of rails which support the pickets.

26-29. (Cancelled).

30. (Currently Amended) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the portion of each picket located inside of the rail is flattened in the first and second converging directions ~~by passage of a crimping tool through the rail~~ to form two generally opposed planar parallel walls that are both generally parallel with ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal axis of one of the plurality of pickets.

31. (Previously Presented) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the rail is a tubular structure that has a unitary and continuous outer wall that extends around the periphery of the hollow rail.

32. (Currently Amended) The panel according to claim 1, wherein the first and second diverging directions are perpendicular to ~~[[the]]~~ a longitudinal axis of one of the plurality of pickets.

33. (New) A panel for a fence comprising:

a generally hollow rail having an external wall and an internal wall, a plurality of entry apertures extending through the external wall, the internal wall being spaced from the external wall and the entry apertures, a plurality of holding apertures extending through the internal wall;

a plurality of pickets having an end portion, each end portion extending through one of the entry apertures in the rail and through one of the holding apertures in the internal wall such that the end portion is between the internal wall and the external wall, each end portion having a hole extending through the picket; and

a rod extending through each hole in each of the pickets between the internal wall and the external wall such that each picket is held within the rail.

34. (New) The panel according to claim 33, wherein the internal wall is part of a cylindrical guide for receiving the rod.